Frederick County Office of Sustainability & Environmental Resources

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

30 N. Market Street • Frederick, MD 21701





News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 14, 2013

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MYERSVILLE & VILLAGES OF URBANA SELECTED FOR SOLARIZE FREDERICK COUNTY PILOT PROJECT

FREDERICK, MD – Myersville and the Villages of Urbana were recently selected as pilot communities for the Solarize Frederick County initiative. Solarize Frederick County is a special initiative of Frederick County Government's Green Homes Challenge, which is operated by the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources. The initiative will offer volume purchasing discounts and a limited number of incentive grants for both solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and solar hot water systems. While marketing and educational efforts will be concentrated in the pilot communities through grassroots efforts during the limited enrollment period, any Frederick County household will be able to participate and take advantage of discounts and incentive grants.

When the Solarize program coordinator, Lisa Orr, and Solarize Green Ambassadors volunteers held site visits with these two finalist communities, each of the communities had so many positive attributes that the team decided they had to include both. Myersville has three enthusiastic Green Ambassadors experienced with solar installations, a strong committee and communication infrastructure for engaging volunteers and residents, a supportive Mayor and town coordinator, and several hundred homes with good solar exposure. The Villages of Urbana also has established committee and communication infrastructure, a supportive HOA, enthusiastic residents, and 2,600 newer homes. "We think we will learn a lot by offering this pilot project in two very different communities," said Orr. "It will be a fun challenge to see which community ends up with the higher percentage of participating households."

Volunteers and representatives from both communities will come together to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) for solar contractors, and to and evaluate proposals. The Town of Myersville will take the lead, issue the RFP, and make the final contractor selections. The initiative is expected to launch in March and will be completed by the end of 2013. Solarize Frederick County aims to install at least 30 solar hot water systems and 30 solar PV systems.

Both Solarize Frederick County and the related incentive grants for purchased solar PV and hot water systems are funded by a Climate Showcase Communities grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Incentive grants of \$750 or \$1,000 will be available only for solar hot water systems purchased through Solarize Frederick County; likewise grants of \$2,000 or \$2,500 will be available for purchased solar PV systems. The higher incentives will be granted to households that are already Certified Power Savers with the Green Homes Challenge. Households opting to lease solar PV systems can take advantage of volume discounts, but not incentive grants.

The Green Homes Challenge helps Frederick County Residents reduce energy use and utility bills, adopt environmentally friendly practices, and use renewable energy. To keep informed about the Solarize Frederick County Initiative, or to learn how to become a Certified Power Saver, visit the Solarize Frederick County webpage at www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/GreenHomes. To express interest in participating in the initiative, complete the Solarize Interest Form on the Solarize web page, email Lisa Orr at <a href="https://www.Lorger.com/Lo

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Photo Caption: Staff, volunteers, and residents from the Villages of Urbana and Frederick County Green Homes Challenge program met in early January for a Solarize Finalist Community review meeting. (Left-to-right) Richard Terselic; Chair of the Design Review Committee and Board of Directors member, Villages of Urbana; Kaitlin Shermer, Intern at U.S. Photovoltaics; Lisa Orr, Frederick County Sustainability Program Coordinator; Jim Johnston, Green Ambassador volunteer; Ram Randad, resident; Julie Virnelson, Assistant Community Manager; Fred Ugast, resident; and Aimee Winegar, General Manager, Villages of Urbana. Not pictured, Janice Wiles, Green Ambassador volunteer.